Punjab Government Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

CHANDIGARH, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
(CHAITRA 30, 1948 SAKA)

LEGISLATIVE SUPPLEMENT

Contents ***Pages***

Part - I **Acts**

The Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026
(Punjab Act No.7 of 2026) ...415-419

Part - II **Ordinances**

Nil

Part - III **Delegated Legislation**

Nil

Part - IV **Correction Slips, Republications and Replacements**

Nil

———

PART-I

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, PUNJAB

NOTIFICATION

The 20th April, 2026

No.8-Leg./2026.- The following Act of the Legislature of the State of Punjab received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 17th day of April, 2026, is hereby published for general information :-

THE JAAGAT JOT SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026

(Punjab Act No.7 of 2026)

AN

ACT

further to amend the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force on such date, as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify.

Substitution of words Bir and Birs in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

2. In the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for the words “Bir” and “Birs”, wherever occurring, the words “Saroop” and “Saroops” shall, respectively, be substituted.

Amendment in the preamble of Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

3. In the principal Act, in the preamble,-

(i) for the first para, the following para shall be substituted, namely:-

"to provide for the prevention of printing, publication, storage, distribution or supply of the Saroops of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib by any person, other than the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or anybody, authorized by it with a view to ensure their sanctity and respect in accordance with the Sikh Rehat Maryada, and to define and penalise the acts of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib and to provide a deterrent

framework against the acts of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;";

(ii) after the fourth para, the following para shall be inserted, namely:-

"Whereas it has also been felt that incidents of deliberate sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib have increased manifold;"; and

(iii) in the last para, at the end, for the sign ".", the sign "," shall be substituted and thereafter, the following words and sign shall be added, namely:-

"and to deter the unscrupulous elements from any act of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib."

Amendment in section 2 of Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

4. In the principal Act, in section 2,-

(i) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(aa) "custodian" means any individual, institution, or Gurdwara Committee to whom a Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib has been formally supplied and/or who is responsible for the protection of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib and observance of prescribed Sikh Rehat Maryada;";

(ii) in clause (b), at the end, the word "and" shall be omitted and thereafter, the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

"(ba) "records" means all records maintained manually or electronically relating to the printing, publication, storage, distribution, and supply of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib;

(bb) "sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib" for the purposes of this Act means any wilful and deliberate act, committed with the intent of desecration by way of physical damaging, defacing, burning, tearing or theft of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib or part thereof, or by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic means or otherwise, which is of such a nature as to hurt the religious feelings of persons professing the Sikh faith; and".

Insertion of sections 3A and 3B in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

5. In the principal Act, after section 3, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:-

Central Register of Saroops of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

"3A. (1) The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee shall maintain a Central Register containing details with regard to the record of printing, storage, distribution, and supply of the Saroops of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The register shall contain,-

(a) Unique identification number of each Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib;

(b) date of printing and publication;

(c) date and place of supply;

(d) place of storage; and

(e) name and address of custodian.

(2) The register or record shall be maintained in physical and electronic form which shall be available on the website of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

(3) The record shall be maintained and uploaded in the electronic form referred to in sub-section (2) within a period of forty-five days from the date of commencement of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026. The register or records referred to in sub-sections (1) and (2) shall be updated on a monthly basis thereafter:

Provided that every such monthly update shall be duly certified by an officer authorised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, and a record of such certification shall also be maintained.

Duties and responsibilities of custodian.

3B. (1) Every custodian receiving a Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib shall ensure,-

(a) safe custody, protection from damage, misuse, or loss in any manner and observance of Sikh Rehat Maryada; and

(b) immediate reporting of any incident involving damage, disappearance, or suspected sacrilege to the concerned police authorities and also to the concerned management authority."

6. In the principal Act, after section 4, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:- Insertion of sections 4A and 4B in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

"4A. (1) The investigation in relation to offence(s) under this Act shall be completed as expeditiously as possible. Investigation of Offences.

(2) It shall be investigated by a police officer, not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police, as the case may be.

4B. (1) The offence(s) punishable under this Act shall be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable. Classification of offences.

(2) The offence(s) punishable under this Act shall be triable by the Court of Sessions."

7. In the principal Act, for section 5, the following section shall be substituted, namely:- Substitution of section 5 of Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

"5. (1) Whosoever contravenes the provisions of this Act and rules framed thereunder, except the offence of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to five years and with fine, which may extend to ten lakh rupees. Punishment.

(2) Any person who commits an offence of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to twenty years, and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than two lakh rupees but which may extend to ten lakh rupees.

(3) Any person who in criminal conspiracy commits an offence of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib under this Act with the intention to disrupt peace or communal harmony shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be

liable to fine which shall not be less than five lakh rupees but which may extend to twenty-five lakh rupees.

(4) Any person who abets the commission of an offence under this Act shall be liable to the same punishment as provided for the offence so abetted.

(5) Any person who attempts to commit an offence under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to three lakh rupees."

Insertion of section 6A in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

8. In the principal Act, after section 6, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

Power to make rules.

"6A. The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act."

Sd/-

B.B.S. TEJI,

Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs.

3696/4-2026/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar.